

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, JA, US

SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE: SONODA COMMENTS

REF: TOKYO 8387

1. REFTEL REQUESTED INFORMATION ABOUT TERMS AND CONTEXT IN WHICH TFC WAS DISCUSSED WITH VARIOUS JAPANESE VISITORS DURING THE VISIT OF PM FUKUDA.

2. SECRETARY KREPS RAISED THE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S MAY 2 BREAKFAST WITH THE CABINET ECONOMIC POLICY GROUP. FOLLOWING THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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SENTATION, CEA CHAIRMAN SCHULTZE EXPLAINED THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY ON GROWTH AND INFLATION, ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SPOKE ON ENERGY POLICY, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS REVIEWED MTN ISSUES, SECRETARY KREPS OUTLINED THE US INTENT TO DEVELOP AN EXPORT POLICY, AND TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL PRESENTED OUR FOREIGN EXCHANGE POLICY. THESE PRESENTATIONS WERE GEARED TO MAKING US POLICIES CLEAR TO THE PRIME MINIS-

TER WHILE STRIVING TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF OPTIMISM AND GOOD
WILL CONCERNING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. SECRETARY KREPS' REMARKS ON THE TFC COULD BE PARAPHRASED BRIEFLY AS FOLLOWS: "THERE IS ONE ISSUE ON WHICH WE CAN USE YOUR ASSISTANCE, MR. PRIME MINISTER, AND THAT IS ON THE TRADE FACILITATION EFFORT. MITI HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE IN THIS ENDEAVOR. BUT OTHER AGENCIES HAVE NOT BEEN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ENLISTING THE ASSISTANCE OF ALL YOUR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES."

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL FOLLOWED UP AT MEETING BETWEEN STRAUSS AND USHIBA RIGHT AFTER THE BREAKFAST BY RAISING THE TFC ALONG THE SAME LINES AS SECRETARY KREPS. USHIBA SAID THAT NOT ALL MATTERS COME WITHIN THE TFC AND THAT EMBASSY SHOULD WORK WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE AS WELL AS WITH MITI. WEIL EXPRESSED THE US VIEW THAT THE TFC WAS SET UP SPECIFICALLY TO SOLVE TRADE PROBLEMS (WITH MITI AND COMMERCE AS THE LEAD AGENCIES) AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF RAPID, STRAIGHTFORWARD, AND FAVORABLE RESPONSES TO TFC CASES.

5. RAISING OF TFC AND QUESTION OF MARKET ACCESS AT THIS LEVEL UNDERLINES AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO ACHIEVING POSITIVE PUBLIC INDICATIONS OF GOJ COOPERATION IN REMOVING BARRIERS TO EQUAL ACCESS BY FOREIGN FIRMS TO
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JAPANESE DOMESTIC MARKETS. VANCE

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NNN

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